

# RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING PROGRAM

This guidance addresses the at-home COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test you have received. This test screens for COVID-19 infection.

Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious. This is important so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Those measures can include isolating the patient from others to prevent further spread of COVID-19.



## WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

**COVID19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE



**COUGH,  
NASAL  
CONGESTION**



**VOMITING  
OR NAUSEA**



**FEVER  
(≥100.4°F)  
OR CHILLS**



**NEW ONSET OF  
POOR APPETITE  
OR POOR FEEDING**



**FATIGUE  
(MORE TIRED  
THAN USUAL)**



**HEADACHE**



**MUSCLE ACHES**



**SORE THROAT**



**SHORTNESS  
OF BREATH  
OR DIFFICULTY  
BREATHING**



**NEW LOSS  
OF TASTE  
OR SMELL**



**RUNNY NOSE**



**ABDOMINAL  
PAIN/DIARRHEA**

## CDC RECOMMENDED ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE PERIODS

**If you test positive for COVID-19  
(Isolate)**

**OR**

**If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)**

Everyone,  
regardless of vaccination

**YOU SHOULD**

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms after 5 days or once you are fever-free (for 24-hours without fever-reducing medications) and your symptoms have significantly improved, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days (10 days all together).

If you have a booster dose  
**OR**  
If you completed the primary series (2 doses) of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 5 months  
**OR**  
If you completed the primary series (1 dose) of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

**YOU SHOULD**

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.
- *If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.*

**OR**

If you completed the primary series (2 doses) of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 5 months ago and do not have a booster dose  
**OR**  
If you completed the primary series (1 dose) of J&J over 2 months ago and do not have a booster dose  
**OR**  
If you are not vaccinated

**YOU SHOULD**

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you cannot quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.
- *If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.*

## WHEN SHOULD YOU TEST?

- ✓ If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and you have symptoms you should test on day 5, if possible.
- ✓ If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and you do not have any symptoms you should test on day 5, if possible.
- ✓ If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should test as soon as possible.

## STORAGE AND OPERATING CONDITIONS

Store test-kit in a dry place between 36-86°F. When ready to use your test-kit make sure all components are at room temperature 65-86°F. This test is most effective when tested within the first 7 days of experiencing symptoms.

## WHO WILL CONDUCT THE TEST?

Individuals aged 15 years and older are able to administer the tests themselves. When testing children 2-14 years old, it is required for an adult to perform the test.

## HOW WILL THE TESTING BE DONE?

The test can be done by inserting only 1/2 to 3/4 inch into the nostril with a simple non-invasive nasal swab at the back of the nostril. Instructions for use are provided in each test kit or you can download an app for instructional videos.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET RESULTS?

The results usually can be read after 15 minutes, but exact timing may differ based on the test brand. Please review the test instructions of your test kit for specific details.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU TEST POSITIVE?

If you test positive you should self-isolate at home per CDC recommendations to stop spreading the virus to others. A positive test result means that antigens from COVID-19 were detected and it is very likely you currently have COVID-19. Stay home and stay away from others in your home as much as possible. There is a very small chance that this test can give a positive result that is wrong (a false positive result). If you test positive and would like to talk with someone about what to do next, please call the HCPH Call Center at 832.927.7575.

## WHAT IF YOU TEST NEGATIVE?

1st test is negative → Continue to follow all social distancing recommendations and wear a mask → If you still suspect COVID-19 → Repeat test in 24-48 hours → If 2nd test is negative and you continue to experience symptoms of fever, cough and/or shortness of breath you should follow up with your healthcare provider for additional testing to determine if you have contacted COVID-19. If you are still having symptoms you should stay home and stay away from others in your home as much as possible.

A negative test result indicates no antigens for COVID-19 were detected. It is possible for this test to give a negative result that is incorrect (false negative) in some people with COVID-19 and negative results may need to be confirmed with a PCR test. This means that you could possibly still have COVID-19 even though the test is negative.

## WHO SHOULD I NOTIFY IF I TEST POSITIVE?

Harris County Public Health has developed an online self-reporting tool for individuals to record their rapid test results. Reporting is voluntary and all patient information is kept secure and protected. To access the self-reporting site, go to <https://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/RapidAntigenSelfReportingPortal>